

REMARKS

Allowance

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 21-24, 76, 77, 85-90, 93, 94, 97 and 98.

Amendment to Claims And Entry of Amendment

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner states that Claims 101 and 102 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending independent Claims 91 and 92 to include the features of allowable dependent Claims 101 and 102, respectively (Applicants are then canceling Claims 101 and 102 without prejudice or disclaimer).

Therefore, independent Claims 91 and 92 are in an allowable condition. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 91 and 92 and those claims dependent thereon now be allowed.

As Applicants are merely amending the claims to add the previously examined and allowable features of the dependent claims, it is respectfully submitted that no further consideration and/or search is necessary in response to this amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered and considered at this time.

Applicants have the following response to the remaining objections and rejections in the Final Rejection.

Drawings

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner objects to the drawings and states that on the right-hand side of Fig. 15, element 907 is mislabeled "906." Accordingly, Applicants are amending Fig. 15 to change "906" on the right side of the figure to "907."

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner rejects Claims 91, 92, 95, 96, 99 and 100 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (JP 9-160509) in view of Yokomizu (JP 10-073813), Kanemoto et al. (US 5,493,429) and Yoneya et al. (US 6,300,926). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, as explained above, Applicants are amending independent Claims 91 and 92 to include the allowable features of dependent Claims 101 and 102, respectively.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 23-0920.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Mark J. Murphy/

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